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May 9, 2018

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senate
107 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Curtis
United States House of Representatives
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Hatch & Congressman Curtis:

The Pew Charitable Trusts has long supported local efforts to preserve ecologically and culturally diverse U.S. public lands through Congressionally-designated wilderness, the establishment of national monuments, administrative protections, and restoring America's National Parks System. To accomplish these goals, we work closely with conservation groups, recreation organizations, local businesses, local governments, sovereign tribes, and other stakeholders to develop collaborative proposals for public lands protection.

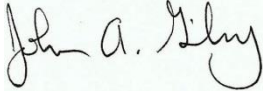
When Pew engaged in the process that has resulted in the *Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018*, we did so with a view towards preserving some of Emery County's most spectacular federally-managed landscapes for future generations while sustaining local economic development and maintaining a dedicated source of revenue for Utah's schoolchildren. We recognize that balanced, sensible, and comprehensive legislation is the best way to honor the values of a broad cross-section of public land users, local elected officials, and other interested stakeholders. We believe that the legislation you have introduced accomplishes that goal, and we are pleased to support it.

This bill would permanently protect more than 529,000 acres of wilderness and – once School and Institutional Trust Lands Association (SITLA) parcels within wilderness and conservation areas are exchanged for other federal parcels – would conserve nearly one million acres of land within the County. It would designate 54 miles of the Green River as Wild & Scenic and establish the 2,500-acre fossil-rich Jurassic National Monument. These are significant conservation gains. The wilderness acreage alone represents 121% of the land that is currently located within Wilderness Study Areas in Emery County. We also appreciate your commitment to management language that ensures the ongoing integrity of the National Wilderness Preservation System, our country's conservation gold standard. By offering permanent protection for some of Utah's world-class wilderness-quality lands and rivers, this bill is an important and balanced step forward for public lands conservation that can serve as a model for future legislation to protect many of Utah's other treasured landscapes.

Pew looks forward to working with you as you proceed towards final passage of this bill. We hope we can continue to engage with you to hone some of the details of the bill, including the sections addressing SITLA exchanges and the leasing of federal land to the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation.

We appreciate the effort that you and your staff have put into the *Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018* and look forward to final passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John A. Gilroy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" at the end.

John Gilroy
Director, U.S. Public Lands
The Pew Charitable Trusts